

## MARIJUANA EDUCATOR GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

**\*\* New Tool for Teaching Middle and High School Students about Marijuana Risks \*\***

A free drug-prevention guide is now available for middle and high school educators to help them deter teens from marijuana use. Created by The New York Times Newspaper in Education program, "Anti-Drug Education with The New York Times: Focus on Marijuana" is available online at [www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/focusonmarijuana](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/focusonmarijuana) and can be downloaded and printed, ready for classroom use.

An easy-to-use teaching tool, the guide contains 12 lesson plans, reprints of relevant New York Times articles, student worksheets, extension activities and resource information, all of which may be photocopied and distributed for classroom use. It also shows teachers how to use the daily newspaper to reinforce anti-drug themes.

The lessons in the guide can help students learn that, contrary to popular myths, marijuana has harmful effects and can be addictive, and that most kids don't use marijuana. In addition, the guide addresses:

- \* how to resist peer pressure to experiment with marijuana or other drugs;
- \* how to think critically about marijuana references in media and popular culture;
- \* the association of marijuana with violence and crime.

By combining anti-drug lessons with standards-based academic instruction, the guide is designed to help teens recognize the risks of marijuana use and develop skills to resist using illicit drugs.

The latest in a series of drug-prevention classroom guides, "Anti-Drug Education with The New York Times: Focus on Marijuana" was created by The New York Times Newspaper In Education Program with sponsorship from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Other than containing news articles previously published in The New York Times, this guide did not involve the reporting or editing staff of The New York Times.

For additional drug prevention education resources, visit <http://www.teachersguide.org/>

SOURCE: MEDIA CAMPAIGN FLASH is an initiative of the White House ONDCP National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign targets youth ages 9-18 - especially middle-school adolescents - parents, and other adults who influence choices young people make to lead drug-free lives. For more information on the Media Campaign, check out <http://www.mediacampaign.org/>